



SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS COORDINATED BY L.D.W.F. TRANSPORT 363 RESIDENTS TO SAFETY

Search and rescue (SAR) missions coordinated by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) evacuated 363 residents from parishes impacted by Hurricane Ike between Sept. 12 and 15.

"Our search and rescue personnel and the support staff that kept them supplied, along with the state and federal agencies that assisted in our mission, did a remarkable job," said LDWF Secretary Robert Barham. "Their efforts in preparation and response for the landfall of two hurricanes, within two weeks, demonstrates a high level of readiness that we can all be proud of."

Acting as lead agency for SAR within the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) emergency support function framework, LDWF worked closely with the Louisiana National Guard (LANG) and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) to respond to rescue calls for assistance. Additional SAR state-level assets were provided by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and Ohio's Department of Natural Resources. Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) support was provided at the federal level by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Photo by Adam Einck

Over the course of the four day response to Hurricane Ike, 665 SAR-trained responders and support personnel and 349 watercraft were positioned at inland staging areas for rescue response. LANG and USCG additionally provided air support resources to aid waterborne responders with reconnaissance information and rescue flights as needed.

Pets evacuated with residents during SAR missions post-Ike totaled 19 and included 14 dogs, four ducks and a cat.

LDWF Enforcement Division agents are returning to their regional offices and will assist local law enforcement as needed with post-hurricane patrols and any additional SAR mission response.



Vinton Resident James Navarre and his neighbor's puppy are evacuated from his flooded neighborhood off of Steward Rd. by LDWF Sgt. Wayne Parker.

For more information, contact Bo Boehringer at 225-765-5115 or bboehringer@wlf.louisiana.gov.

LDWF Administration

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Janice Lansing, *Undersecretary*
Randy Pausina, *Asst. Sec., Fisheries*
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Karen Foote, *Marine Fisheries*
Kenny Ribbeck, *Wildlife*
Phil Bowman, *Coastal and Nongame*
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GOVERNOR JINDAL RECEIVES CONFIRMATION ON REQUEST FOR FEDERAL FISHERIES DISASTER RELIEF IN AFTERMATH OF HURRICANES GUSTAV AND IKE

Governor Bobby Jindal has received confirmation from U.S. Commerce Secretary M. Carlos Gutierrez that a formal fishery resource disaster in the Gulf of Mexico has been declared due to the devastation of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike.

The declaration, prompted by the governor's Sept. 5 letter that began the Hurricane Gustav recovery effort, sets in motion provisions of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act that authorize assistance to fishermen affected by natural disasters. This action also makes small fishing businesses eligible for certain Small Business Administration loans.

"Our fishing industry has sustained another set back, that may well be as formidable as the impact of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and this

action begins the early response initiatives," said Governor Jindal. "The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will coordinate the use of recovery funds provided through this process. We know more help will be needed, but this is a necessary first step."

Commercial fishing in the affected areas consists mostly of finfish, shrimp and oysters. The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will work with the states to further assess damage to the major fishing ports and the seafood processing facilities in Louisiana and Texas.

The initial affected areas under today's declaration are Texas and Louisiana. DOC/NOAA will continue to work with the region to assess the impacts of the storm in other areas of the Gulf.

"The economic impacts of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike on fishing communities in the Gulf of Mexico will hurt these communities," Gutierrez said. "We have a lot of work to do, but this disaster determination is an important step in the recovery process."

NOAA's Fisheries Service will work with the states to distribute any funds appropriated in response to this determination.

"Working with the fishing industry and NOAA, we will assess the damage to our fishing resources and move quickly to deliver recovery funds where needed," said Robert Barham, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries secretary.

For more information, contact Bo Boehringer at 225-765-5115 or bboehringer@wlf.louisiana.gov.

L.D.W.F. EXTENDS 2008 ALLIGATOR HARVEST SEASON

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Secretary Robert Barham has signed a declaration of emergency to extend the 2008 wild alligator season to official sunset on Oct. 19, in both zones, due to Hurricanes Gustav and Ike.

The original season was set to end on Sept. 25 in the east zone and Oct. 2 in the west zone.

Both hurricanes have impacted the progress of this season as LDWF estimates that only 50 percent of the 37,000 tags allotted for the 2008 alligator season have been utilized at this time.

Many alligator hunters and processors have had to delay their harvest and processing efforts multiple times in order

to prepare for and recover from both Hurricane Gustav and Ike.

"Hunters and processors requested the extension to allow for completion of their allotted harvest, and the department agreed," said Phil Bowman, LDWF Coastal and Nongame Resources Division administrator. "This extension should give all alligator hunters sufficient time to complete their harvest efforts."

For more information, contact Philip Bowman at 225-765-2813 or pbowman@wlf.louisiana.gov.

**LDWF deer tagging video available at:
www.wlf.louisiana.gov/hunting/regulations/deerhunting.**



L.D.W.F. AND D.E.Q. ISSUE ILLEGAL DUMPING VIOLATIONS

LDWF Enforcement Division agents working in conjunction with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) charged two men in Livingston Parish for illegal dumping violations on Aug. 29.

Milton L. Demars, 57, from Springfield, and Terry D. O'Neal, 64, from Killian, were charged for allegedly being involved in a conspiracy to commit illegal dumping.

O'Neal, the landowner, gave permission to Demars, owner of the Prop Stop bar, to dispose of substances including various styro-foam plates, cups, refrigerator, vacuum cleaner, mattress and other assorted waste products into an excavated pit on his property in Livingston Parish.

DEQ was alerted to the property located off of Keila Road in Killian and conducted an inspection/investigation with LDWF agents at the site. LDWF agents and DEQ officials declared the excavated pit is not a legal disposal site.

Penalties for each conspiracy to commit illegal dumping carries a fine up to \$25,000, which may be assessed for



LDWF File Photo

each day the violation continues and costs of prosecution, or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both.

LDWF Agents participating in the case were Senior Agent Clarence Marques, Senior Agent Brody Roberts and Sgt. Dane Thomas. The DEQ inspector participating in the case was Brad Taylor.

For more information, contact Lt. Col. Jeff Mayne at 225-765-2987 or jmayne@wlf.louisiana.gov.

L.D.W.F. TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY

National Hunting and Fishing Day is Saturday, Sept. 27, and in Baton Rouge, LDWF will mark the day with its 24th annual celebration. The department will also hold events in Minden, Monroe and Woodworth.

LDWF invites people of all ages in the Baton Rouge metro area to celebrate this year's event at Waddill Outdoor Education Center. The Baton Rouge event offers hands-on activities including canoeing, fishing, sports shooting and duck and goose calling. This year the department will again have a catfish pool where very young anglers can catch their first fish.

"Hunting, fishing and other outdoor sports are fun, healthy activities for Louisiana families," said LDWF Public Information Assistant Director Thomas Gresham.

Waddill Outdoor Education Center is located at 4142 Flannery Road. This event is scheduled to run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, contact the LDWF public information office at 225-765-2496.

This year's event also offers numerous outdoor demonstrations and exhibits including Red Stick Fly Fishers, Louisiana Bayou Bluebird Society, Louisiana Hiking Club. J.B. Salter's

Jiggin Poles, Louisiana Wildlife Federation, plus many more.

National Hunting and Fishing Day is open to the public and all activities, food and drink are free of charge. A tasting booth will feature area chefs preparing and serving wild game and fish dish samples to the public.

The Coca-Cola Bottling Company and Associated Grocers are the primary sponsors of the event. The event is also sponsored in part by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation, The Advocate and Louisiana Fish Fry Products.



LONGTIME L.D.W.F. WATERFOWL STUDY LEADER PASSES

Former Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) State Waterfowl Study Leader Robert Helm lost his battle with brain cancer on Sept. 3, 2008 at the age of 57.

Helm was born on Feb. 21, 1951, in Portsmouth, Va., and was raised in New Roads, La., by his parents Catherine Chadwick Helm and Dr. Robert Newton Helm.

Helm graduated from Poydras High School in New Roads and Northeast University in Monroe, where he was a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity.

He earned his master's degree in marine biology from Louisiana State University.

Helm started working for LDWF in 1978 as a district biologist and was the waterfowl study leader for his last 23 years with the department.

Helm retired in 2008 and remained an active part of LDWF's waterfowl management plans as a consultant until his death.

Ducks Unlimited and the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission recently honored Helm for his 30 plus years of dedicated service to waterfowl, wetlands and the waterfowl hunters who hunt in Louisiana.

Helm is credited with developing the wood duck nest box and banding pro-

Photo by Thomas Gresham



Recently retired LDWF waterfowl study leader, Robert Helm, lost his battle with brain cancer on Sept. 3 at the age of 57.

gram in the early 1990s in Louisiana. Beginning in 1986, Robert flew winter waterfowl surveys throughout the state, served on the Mississippi Flyway Council Technical Section and, most recently, initiated the youth hunt on the north farm of the Sherburne Wildlife Management Area for recruitment of youth hunters.

"People like Robert Helm is why Louisiana is known as a Sportsman's Paradise," said LDWF Secretary Robert Barham. "His

influence and voice helped conserve the sport of duck hunting for future generations to enjoy."

A scholarship was set up in Robert's name with Ducks Unlimited Canada. Donations can be mailed to Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists, c/o Jimmy Anthony, Assistant Secretary at LDWF, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000.

Funeral services were held at the Bethany World Prayer Center (South Campus) in Baton Rouge, on Saturday, Sept. 6.

Robert is survived by his daughters, Courtney, Kelsey, Abigail and Anna; son, Trevor; parents, Catherine Chadwick Helm and Dr. Robert Newton Helm; two sisters, Corinne Helm Hess and husband Ron, and Suzanne Helm Edwards and husband Kevin; and three brothers, Herbert Chadwick Helm, Michael Gaiennie Helm and wife Kellie O'Neal Helm, and William Compton Helm and wife Elizabeth Wampold Helm.

For more information, contact Adam Einck at 225-765-2465 or aeinck@wlf.louisiana.gov.

To get the latest LDWF related Hurricane news and reports, please visit LDWF's Hurricane Information page at:
www.wlf.louisiana.gov/hurricane.

